(b) if so, what steps are being taken to bring down the pollution level in air in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has been monitoring aerosol optical depth at three locations, namely, Trivandrum, Visakhapatnam and Mysore over the last 16 years. The optical depths have shown a steady increase from 0.25 in 1985 to 0.38 in 2002 at Trivandrum and Mysore. There is, however, a decrease from 0.43 to 0.36 at Visakhapatnam during the same period. The trends are region specific and are influenced by changes in aerosol number concentration, size, distribution and chemical composition.

(b) Government have initiated various steps to control air pollution in the country which, *inter alia*, include:

* Notification of emission standards for various industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
* Identification of critically polluted areas and preparation of action plans for restoration of environmental quality.
* Promotion of cleaner technologies for control of industrial pollution.
* Appropriate siting of industries to minimise impact on eco-systems.
* Control of vehicular pollution through promotion of clean fuels, introduction of stringent emission norms and fuel specifications.
* Strengthening the monitoring network and institutional capabilities to facilitate and improve enforcement mechanism.

PSU/private sector fertilizer units

†*460. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS and FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fertilizer producing units in India, both in the public sector and private sectors, giving the State-wise details thereof;

(b) the impact of liberalization policy of Government on the Indian fertilizer industry; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the efforts being made by Government to save the Indian fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) State-wise and sector-wise major fertilizer producing units (excluding SSP) in India at present in operation are as under:

Name of the State	Sectors			Total
	Public	Cooperative	Private	
Andhra Pradesh	1	-	4	5
Kerala	3	-	-	3
Karnataka	-	-	1	1
Tamil Nadu	2	-	3	5
Goa	1	-	-	1
Madhya Pradesh	2	-	-	2
Chhattisgarh	1	-	-	1
Maharashtra	4	-	1	5
Gujarat	-	3	7	10
Rajasthan	-	-	3	3
Jharkhand	1	-	-	1
Bihar	1	-	-	1
Orissa	2	-	2	4
West Bengal	2	-	1	3
Assam	1	-	-	1
Haryana	1	-	-	1
Punjab	3	-	1	4
Uttar Pradesh	-	4	4	8
TOTAL	25	7	27	59*

*Out of these, 13 units are producing only Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN), Ammonium Sulfate (AS), Ammonium Chloride (AC) and other low analysis fertilizers as by-products.

(b) and (c) In keeping with the policy of economic liberalization and reforms, all fertilizers except urea have already been freed from movement and distribution control. The Government is extending subsidy to urea under Retention Price Cum Subsidy Scheme (RPS) and concession to decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers on sale to farmer under

Concession Scheme after providing reasonable return to manufacturers. With increase in production capacity during the last decade, India has achieved near self-sufficiency in nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers. The Government intend moving towards a de-regulated regime in all the three types of fertilizers that is, nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, after taking into account its fiscal capacity and also making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price. Government is in the process of formulating a new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission for replacing the existing RPS. The proposed new policy will be in the shape of Group Concession Scheme. The new policy will aim at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disbursements to urea units and will induce them to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive. The impact of new fertilizer policy is mainly in terms of techno-economic cost effective manufacturing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Complaints against arrangements in Busan

3115. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints by sports associations that arrangements made in Busan during the Asian Games were not upto the mark; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons for their complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir, except that according to the Billiards and Snooker Federation, their team members had to take rest on the viewer gallery/chairs at the venue since no rest rooms were provided for the players by the organizers.

Sugarcane production in Orissa

3116. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the areas under sugarcane production in Orissa;